

**These charges are only allegations which  
may be contested by the licensee in an  
Administrative hearing.**

IN THE MATTER  
OF  
HARDIK SONI, M.D.

NOTICE OF  
REFERRAL  
PROCEEDING

TO: HARDIK SONI, M.D.  
[REDACTED]

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT:

An adjudicatory proceeding will be held pursuant to the provisions of N.Y. Pub. Health Law §230(10)(p) and N.Y. State Admin. Proc. Act §§301-307 and 401. The proceeding will be conducted before a committee on professional conduct of the State Board for Professional Medical Conduct (Committee) on November 15, 2018, at 10:30 a.m., at the offices of the New York State Department of Health, Riverview Center, 150 Broadway, Suite 510, Menands (Albany), NY 12204-2719,<sup>1</sup> and at such other adjourned dates, times and places as the committee may direct.

At the proceeding, evidence will be received concerning the allegations set forth in the Statement of Charges, which is attached. A stenographic record of the proceeding will be made and the witnesses at the proceeding will be sworn and examined.

You may appear in person at the proceeding and may be represented by counsel who shall be an attorney admitted to practice in New York state. You may produce evidence or sworn testimony on your behalf. Such evidence or sworn testimony shall be strictly limited to evidence and testimony relating to the nature and severity of the penalty to be imposed upon the licensee. Where the charges are based on the conviction of state law crimes in other jurisdictions, evidence may be offered which would show that the conviction would not be a crime in New York State. The Committee also may limit the number of witnesses whose testimony will be received, as well as the length of time any witness will be permitted to testify.

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<sup>1</sup> For GPS purposes, enter "Menands", not "Albany".

If you intend to present sworn testimony, the number of witnesses and an estimate of the time necessary for their direct examination must be submitted to the New York State Department of Health, Division of Legal Affairs, Bureau of Adjudication, Riverview Center, 150 Broadway - Suite 510, Albany, NY 12204-2719, ATTENTION: HON. JAMES HORAN, DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF ADJUDICATION (Telephone: (518-402-0748), (henceforth "Bureau of Adjudication") as well as the Department of Health attorney indicated below, no later than twenty days prior to the scheduled date of the Referral Proceeding, as indicated above.

Pursuant to the provisions of N.Y. Pub. Health Law §230(10)(p), you shall file a written answer to each of the charges and allegations in the Statement of Charges at least ten days prior to the date of the hearing. Any charge or allegation not so answered shall be deemed admitted. You may wish to seek the advice of counsel prior to filing such answer. You may also file a written brief and affidavits with the Committee. All such documents shall be filed with the Bureau of Adjudication, at the address indicated above, and a copy shall be forwarded to the attorney for the Department of Health whose name appears below, at least ten days prior to the date of the hearing. Should the parties have objection(s) to proposed witnesses or documentary evidence, the party raising the objection(s) shall contact the Bureau of Adjudication at least three days prior to the hearing date to arrange for a pre-hearing conference with the Administrative Law Judge, prior to the hearing date.

Not later than ten days prior to the date of the hearing, you are required to file one copy of your proposed exhibits (if any) with the Bureau of Adjudication at the address indicated above, and a copy of all such documents/exhibits must be served on the same date on the Department of Health attorney indicated below. On the day of the hearing, you are also required to provide the original of such exhibits and three copies, for use by the Committee.

Pursuant to §301(5) of the State Administrative Procedure Act, the Department, upon reasonable notice, will provide at no charge a qualified interpreter of the deaf to interpret the proceedings to, and the testimony of, any deaf person. Pursuant to the terms of N.Y. State Admin. Proc. Act §401 and 10 N.Y.C.R.R. §51.8(b), the Petitioner hereby demands disclosure of the evidence that the Respondent intends to introduce at the hearing, including the names of witnesses, a list of and copies of documentary evidence and a description of physical or other evidence which cannot be photocopied.

YOU ARE HEREBY ADVISED THAT THE ATTACHED CHARGES WILL BE MADE PUBLIC FIVE BUSINESS DAYS AFTER THEY ARE SERVED.

Department attorney: Initial here [REDACTED]

The proceeding may be held whether or not you appear. Please note that requests for adjournments must be made in writing to the Bureau of Adjudication, at the address indicated above, with a copy of the request to the attorney for the Department of Health, whose name appears below, at least five days prior to the scheduled date of the proceeding. Adjournment requests are not routinely granted. Claims of court engagement will require detailed affidavits of actual engagement. Claims of illness will require medical documentation. Failure to obtain an attorney within a reasonable period of time prior to the proceeding will not be grounds for an adjournment.

The Committee will make a written report of its findings, conclusions as to guilt, and a determination. Such determination may be reviewed by the administrative review board for professional medical conduct.

THESE PROCEEDINGS MAY RESULT IN A  
DETERMINATION THAT YOUR LICENSE TO PRACTICE  
MEDICINE IN NEW YORK STATE BE REVOKED OR  
SUSPENDED, AND/OR THAT YOU BE FINED OR  
SUBJECT TO OTHER SANCTIONS SET OUT IN NEW  
YORK PUBLIC HEALTH LAW §§230-a. YOU ARE URGED  
TO OBTAIN AN ATTORNEY TO REPRESENT YOU IN  
THIS MATTER.

DATED: Albany, New York  
September 25, 2018

[REDACTED]  
MICHAEL A. HISER  
Deputy Counsel  
Bureau of Professional Medical Conduct

Inquiries should be addressed to:

Marc S. Nash  
Associate Counsel  
Bureau of Professional Medical Conduct  
Corning Tower – Room 2512  
Empire State Plaza  
Albany, NY 12237  
(518) 473-4282

Cc: Nan Gallagher, Esq.  
Gallagher Campanella LLC  
52 Elm Street, Suite 1  
Morristown, New Jersey 07960

IN THE MATTER

OF

HARDIK SONI, M.D.

STATEMENT  
OF  
CHARGES

HARDIK SONI, M.D., the Respondent, was authorized to practice medicine in New York State on or about July 27, 2005, by the issuance of license number 237131 by the New York State Education Department.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

A. On or about June 5, 2017, Respondent and the New Jersey Board of Medical Examiners (hereinafter, "New Jersey Board") entered into a Consent Order of Indefinite Suspension which indefinitely suspended Respondent's license to practice medicine pending a demonstration of fitness and until further Order of the New Jersey Board. During the period of suspension, Respondent must cease and desist of all patient contact and not enter the premises of his medical practice during patient hours. Prior to any restoration of Respondent's license, Respondent shall participate in the Professional Assistance Program and comply with a substance abuse treatment program, comply with random drug screens, and abstain from the use of all psychoactive substances, unless prescribed by a treating physician for a documented medical condition. This Consent Order of Indefinite Suspension was issued after the claimant, who had previously met with New Jersey's Professional Assistance Program in 2008 and was enrolled in the Alternative Resolution Program, advised the Professional Assistance Program that he relapsed in the use of alcohol and admitted he drank alcohol during at least a six-month period leading up to April 19, 2017.

B. The Conduct resulting in the New Jersey Board's disciplinary action against Respondent would constitute misconduct under the laws of New York State pursuant to the following Section of New York State Law:

1. New York Education Law § 6530(8) (Being a habitual abuser of alcohol, or being dependent on or a habitual user of narcotics, barbiturates, amphetamines, hallucinogens, or other drugs having similar effects)

**SPECIFICATION OF CHARGES**  
**HAVING HAD DISCIPLINARY ACTION TAKEN**

Respondent is charged with committing professional misconduct as defined in N.Y. Educ. Law § 6530(9)(d) by having his or her license to practice medicine revoked, suspended or having other disciplinary action taken, or having his or her application for a license refused, revoked or suspended or having voluntarily or otherwise surrendered his or her license after a disciplinary action was instituted by a duly authorized professional disciplinary agency of another state, where the conduct resulting in the revocation, suspension or other disciplinary action involving the license or refusal, revocation or suspension of an application for a license or the surrender of the license would, if committed in New York state, constitute professional misconduct under the laws of New York state (namely N.Y. Educ. Law § 6530(8)) as alleged in the facts of the following:

1. The facts in Paragraphs A and B and B.1.

DATE: September <sup>25</sup>, 2018  
Albany, New York

  
MICHAEL A. HISER  
Deputy Counsel  
Bureau of Professional Medical Conduct